Fostering STUDENT SUCCESS at West

Core Team News

Clare Norris and Mary-Jo Apigo, Core Team Leaders

West had a team of six attend LACCD’s Student Success Initiative ATD Retreat on March 22. The West team attended breakout sessions on Habits of Mind, effectively evaluating student success initiatives, and Pasadena City College’s Pathways program. To access all the presentations, materials, and pictures from the event, go to http://laccdsi.org/2013/03/22/2nd-annual-laccd-achieving-the-dream-retreat-at-lacs/. West also participated in the afternoon poster session where each college shared its progress with its ATD initiatives. We learned about an English acceleration project at Mission College, Pierce College’s ASAP (Algebra Success at Pierce) Program, along with initiatives at other LACCD colleges.

We are pleased to report that the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee gave a high priority to the Center for Academic Support’s (formerly Learning Center) request for funding for SI tutors for literacy and other disciplines and for setting up a Math Lab. West’s Center for Academic Support faculty members and our Math division chair will meet with the ATD coaches during their April visit to update them on our enhanced tutoring progress.

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Enhanced Tutoring. We are pleased to report that the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee gave a high priority to the Center for Academic Support’s (formerly Learning Center) request for funding for SI tutors for literacy and other disciplines and for setting up a Math Lab. West’s Center for Academic Support faculty members and our Math division chair will meet with the ATD coaches during their April visit to update them on our enhanced tutoring progress.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Many exciting student success related professional development opportunities are available this spring.

• April 19 | Habits of Mind Workshop | Fullerton College | http://3csnhom041913.eventbrite.com
• April 25 | Tech Fair Keynote Address by Diego Navarro | West GC 160 | http://techfair2013.eventbrite.com
• May 17 | LINKS VII: A Look at Successful Completion Agenda Programs | http://3csn.org/event/links-vii-a-look-at-successful-completion-agenda-programs-laoie/ELAC
• June 2-7 | BSILI 2013 (Leadership for Curricular and Institutional Transformation Institute) | Lake Arrowhead

West’s Reading Apprenticeship Faculty Inquiry Group will meet again on April 15 at 12:45 in GC 210K. If you’re interested in participating, contact Nancy Sander at x1384 or sandern@wlac.edu.
By Yvette Sandoval, Literacy Tutor, West’s Learning Resource Center

Hi there! My name is Yvette Sandoval, and I am a literacy tutor at the Learning Resource Center at West where I graduated and transferred to USC. I have a B.A. in African American Studies, a M.S. in Education Administration, as well as a State Teaching Credential. I taught AP English as well as a State Teaching Credential in secondary History classes and now use my experiences in education.

I am currently part of the implementation of West’s new reading programs Reading Apprenticeship and Reading Horizons as a supplemental instructor of the reading software that scaffolds reading development for ESL/ESOL ELL students. Student success is vital in the efforts of teamwork at the Academic Success Center (formally known as the LRC) with numerous resources for students seeking support and reinforcement of academic abilities/skills due to Dr. Sue de Bord and Professor Tim Russell, particularly in Language Arts & Mathematics.

In the Writing Lab, I promulgate schema in multiple levels of English Composition/Language Arts for MLA formatted essay writing assignments to reveal an organized way of cognitively perceiving and responding to stimuli.

While Reading Horizons is a foundation for phonetic/vocabulary development, pronunciation proficiency, and a foreign language translation tool with special databases containing 66 interactive lessons, the Reading Apprenticeship captures the reading process designed to teach students metacognitive strategies that show the “how, why, what, and when” for text and task analysis in complex reading processes. The understanding of schemata, mobilizing and building knowledge structure through metacognitive routines such as Talking to the Text, Think Aloud, and Read Aloud, is essential to create a repertoire of strategic reading skills. The 4 language domains: read, write, speak, and listen are activated to engage students in a strategic metacognitive conversation driving purpose and motivation to reading, linking reading to literacy and power.

Above all, reading is a powerful and valuable instrument in academics, culture, economics, and politics; and thus literacy practices are intertwined with power and privilege for autonomy in students’ future life options.

Upcoming Details

By Clare Norris and Mary-Jo Apigo, Core Team Leaders

Save the date for the Fall 2013 Semester Kickoff scheduled for Friday, August 23, 2013. Semester Kickoff is designed to address the ATD College Priority: successful achievement of degrees and certificates.

West’s ATD teams will be meeting this summer to plan for the Fall Semester Kickoff, an event designed for faculty, staff, and administrators to support new and returning students in getting a head start on the Fall 2013 semester. All are welcome to participate in the planning meetings.

Please notify your students and keep a look out for a flyer and emails to share with your students to save the date and RSVP.